

**NORTH GREECE FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
Public Hearing  
1766 Latta Road Station #2  
12/6/2016**

**PRESENT:** Chairman L. Andreano, Commissioners J. Camiolo, Alan DeCarlo; Secretary Kari Dutton, Atty. Ray DiRaddo

**ABSENT:** Commissioner J. Meath

**PUBLIC:** Dir. Michael Beaty, Bruce Wood, Mike MacKenzie, Sam DeRosa, FF Marc Baxter, Rod Speer, Richard Delvecchio, Charles Ennis, Lt. Dean Meyers, FF Dave Falkner, FF Matt Healey

Chairman L. Andreano called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted the fire exits. The opening of the meeting was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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- Secretary Dutton called the roll of commission members.
- Chair L. Andreano read the following notice:
  - This is the public hearing regarding the proposed resolution regarding the employment of firefighters and paid officers and a paid Fire Chief by the North Greece Fire District of the Towns of Greece and Parma, County of Monroe, State of New York which is being presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Greece Fire District, for its consideration. In accordance with New York State Town Law, all Fire Districts must hold prior to the employment of paid fire fighters and a paid fire chief, a public hearing on the topic. There was a public hearing in 2008 regarding this same issue. The purpose of today's hearing is, in part, to set out the 2017 salary range for the paid chief (as it is set out in the resolution), document the number of paid firefighters that this district may employ and other issues at are set forth in the notice of public hearing.
  - During this hearing, the public is allowed to make comments on the resolution. Any person may be heard in favor of, or against, the resolution or any item in it.
  - Secretary Dutton will file with this district an affidavit stating that the notice of this public hearing was at published or posted in accordance with the law.
  - Prior to the public comment portion of this public hearing, we will hear from the Attorney Ray DiRaddo who will make a brief presentation about the proposed resolution to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are present.
  - During the presentation a brief summary of the proposed resolution will be made. The presented should not answer specific questions during this time so as not to make this a question-and-answer session.
- The presentation by The District's counsel was given. Atty. Ray DiRaddo stated that the proposed resolution has two different parts, one regarding the hiring of paid firefighters, which includes officers. It states that they can hire up to 55 firefighters, but the district has only budgeted for 47.
- The public comments period began. Those wishing to be heard on this proposed resolution were asked to stand so that that person may be heard in favor of, or against, the proposed resolution or any part of it. They were asked to clearly state their name and address for the record and limit their comments to five (5) minutes. All questions were directed to the board or the treasurer. They were reminded that this was not a question-and-answer session. The board was looking for opinions on the resolution or any part of it, whether favorable or not. Speakers were asked to please tell the board what they are in favor of regarding this resolution or what they are against. The public was reminded that they may ask questions, but this board and the presenter would not answer any questions until the conclusion of the public comments period.
- The public was invited to make comments on the resolution.
  - Charles Ennis, residing at 1022 Rumson Rd. feels that Sam DeRosa will be a great addition. He also feels that consolidation should be considered. He is also suggesting looking for money at the national level, seeking grant money. He is a strong proponent

- of accountability and responsibility. A reference was made to a recent local tragedy, hoping that the sad tragic situation will be duly evaluated and investigated. He realized the job hazards. He is also interested in maintaining insurability, looking forward to the future of our town. He feels that N. Greece does a great job and has quick response times. It fills a definite need in our society. He is not as concerned about the money; there are other potential avenues to save cost. If the residents see good service he feels it is ok but asks the district to be conservative and vigilant.
- Bruce Wood, residing at 664 N. Greece Rd., asked how the number of firefighters was suggested. He wanted to know who proposed the number, how we decide how many firefighters we need. Operating procedures should be looked at to see if we really need that many. He does not feel that we should run a fire truck down the road for a priority 3 call or higher. The number of officers vs. other personnel seems like overkill to him. He suggested that it looks as if the volunteers have been depleted by the running rules. He hates to see the change, it seems like volunteers are being pushed down. Seems like the fire district is overkill, what they buy and do. Building large houses for fewer trucks. The big stations don't impress anyone. His concern is that we are the laughing stock of the county. He suggested looking at spending procedures.
  - Rod Speer, residing at 46 Spring Creek Circle is in favor of the chief. He feels that you can have volunteers and professionals but that we should work to try to get more volunteers and that volunteers should work with the professionals. He thinks it would be great to have 55 firefighters but asks how we would you pay for them.
  - Bob Staub, residing on Kirk Rd. is concerned about the cost of this proposal. The tax rate went up over 10% last year and he is concerned about what the tax rate will be for next year for the tax payer.
- The public comment period was closed. The Board of Fire Commissioners had no questions.
  - Atty. DiRaddo answered questions discussed during the public comments period and fire commissioners questioning period.
    - Fire service consolidation is spoken about often. He feels that it will eventually occur.
    - Grants have been used, but would not help the ongoing cost.
    - Running rules have been discussed repeatedly.
    - As far as killing the volunteer service: it doesn't have to be that way, but it is the outcome of having paid people. The district has made it a top priority to retain volunteers.
    - The resolution states, hiring up to 55 firefighters, but has planned for 46. They wanted to leave room for the future. Many board members have the best interest of constituent's dollars at heart.
    - The 2017 tax increase is under 2%.
  - The chairman stated that the hearing regarding the proposed resolution was going to be closed.

**MOTION BY** Commissioner A. DeCarlo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Camiolo, To close the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

*L. Andreano-yes, A. DeCarlo-yes, J. Meath-absent, J. Camiolo-yes* Carried

**MOTION BY** Commissioner A. DeCarlo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Camiolo, To open the meeting to vote on the proposed resolution at 7:24 p.m.

*L. Andreano-yes, A. DeCarlo-yes, J. Meath-absent, J. Camiolo-yes* Carried

#### **2016.3000.20.12.06**

**MOTION BY** Commissioner J. Camiolo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner A. DeCarlo, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Law, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Greece Fire District does hereby determine that in order to protect the residents of the North Greece Fire District, it is in the public interest of the residents of the Fire District to:

1. Employ up to 55 paid firefighters, including 26 paid officers and a paid chief of the North Greece Fire District:
2. That the powers and duties of such paid firefighters, fire officers and paid chief will be as set forth in New York State Law and as determined by the North Greece Board of Fire Commissioners, The paid chief shall see that the rules and regulations established by the Board of Fire Commissioners are observed and the orders of the Board of Fire Commissioners are enforced.
3. The chain of command in the fire department and fire district will begin with the Board of Fire Commissioners, than the Paid Chief, and then to the other chief officers . This chain of command can be modified by the Board of Fire Commissioners from time to time. That all firefighters and officers of the fire department and fire district shall act under the orders and control of the paid chief.
4. The paid chief or his designee shall be in charge of the apparatus and other equipment subject the New York State Law, and report to the board the condition of the property of the fire district and such other information as may be required of the Fire Chief.
5. The Board of Fire Commissioners may establish rules and regulations from time to time which will further explain and implement the above determinations;
6. The salary of the chief proposed to be employed commencing in 2016 will be between \$108,000.00 to \$ 114,000.00 base pay.  
*L. Andreano-yes, A. DeCarlo-yes, J. Meath-absent, J. Camiolo-yes Carried*

**2016.3000.21.12.06**

**MOTION BY** Commissioner J. Camiolo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner A. DeCarlo, To provisionally appoint Samuel DeRosa as the paid career chief of the North Greece Fire District at an annual base salary of \$111,128.52, plus benefits.

*L. Andreano-yes, A. DeCarlo-yes, J. Meath-absent, J. Camiolo-yes Carried*

**MOTION BY** Commissioner J. Camiolo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner A. DeCarlo, To resolve to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:28 p.m.

*L. Andreano-yes, A. DeCarlo-yes, J. Meath-absent, J. Camiolo-yes Carried*

Respectfully submitted,



Kari Dutton, Secretary  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
North Greece Fire District

